

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /086 W

-----180612 085871 /23-12

R 172313Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: NDP PROVINCIAL MP'S AND CLC DIFFER ON

ENDING CONTROLS

REF: 76 OTTAWA 4725

1. DURING SECOND MEETING IN RECENT MONTHS BETWEEN NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) LEADERS AND CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) OFFICERS, SHARP DIFFERENCES ON ENDING CONTROLS POISED THE ATMOSPHERE. NDP PREMIER BLAKENEY OF SASKATCHEWAN AND SCHREYER OF MANITOBA MAINTAINED THAT MAJORITY OF THEIR VOTERS STILL SUPPORTED CONTROLS AND, THEREFORE, THEY MUST AWAIT FEDERAL DECONTROL INITIATIVE BEFORE TAKING ACTION ON PROVINCIAL LEVELS.

2. BOTH PREMIERS ARGUED THAT SOME RESTRAINTS WERE NEEDED IN 1975 TO BREAK INFLATION PSYCHOLOGY BUT GOC'S APPROACH WAS "UNJUST AND UNFAIR". THEIR ONLY POINT OF AGREEMENT WITH CLC AND NDP NATIONAL LEADER BROADBENT, (WHO OPPOSED CONTROLS FROM BEGINNING,) WAS ON NOT RETAINING THEM FOR PUBLIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECTOR ONCE PRIVATE INDUSTRY IS DECONTROLLED. BLAKENEY FAVORED GRADUAL LIFTING OF CONTROLS STARTING WITH SMALLER ENTERPRISES WHILE SCHREYER, WHO HAS GREATER ORGANIZED LABOR HOSTILITY IN HIS PROVINCE, WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOC LIFT ALL CONTROLS AT EARLY DATE.

3. COMMENT: THIS SECOND EFFORT TO IMPROVE NDP-CLC RELATIONS

CAME TO NOUGHT. ALTHOUGH FEDERAL NDP LEADERSHIP SHARES CLC'S HOSTILITY TO CONTROLS, LOCAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE DICTATED A DIFFERENT POSTURE FOR THE TWO NDP PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. THESE DIVERGENCIES SHOWED ORGANIZED LABOR ONCE AGAIN THAT NDP LACKS SUFFICIENT COHESION TO RELY ON IT FOR ACHIEVING LABOR'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. NOTWITHSTANDING SHARP DISAGREEMENT CHARACTERIZING THIS LATEST CLC-NDP MEETING, CLC WILL CONTINUE ITS LOBBYING EFFORTS IN ALL PROVINCIAL CAPITALS TO END ADHERENCE TO CONTROLS WHEN AGREEMENTS WITH GOC COME UP FOR RENEWAL.

4. SCHREYER AND BLAKENEY ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ALONE IN DETECTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONTROLS PROGRAM. SEVERAL LIBERAL MP'S HAVE COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS ON WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONCERN THAT HIGH RATE OF INFLATION MIGHT RECUR, AND CONSEQUENT CONVICTION THAT CONTROLS HAVE SERVED A PURPOSE. SUCH REPORTS ARE ADMITTEDLY SOMEWHAT SELF-SERVING FROM MP'S OF GOVERNING PARTY WHICH INITIATED CONTROLS IN FIRST PLACE.
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Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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